

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 300006
ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: LEGGIO

APPROVED BY S/S-O: GOLDSMITH

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

1 COPY FOR S/S-O

-----011122Z 046476 /12

O 011110Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

TREASURY IMMEDIATE

USCG IMMEDIATE

CIA IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ASAD'S ALAWITE OPPONENTS MAKE UNSUCCESSFUL BID FOR
POWER

ACCORDING TO THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY
DAMASCUS, PREDOMINANTLY ALAWITE GROUPS OF SYRIAN OFFICERS
AND NCO'S WERE MEETING IN EARLY DECEMBER TO CRITICIZE THE
REGIME, AND MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING AN ATTEMPT TO UNSEAT
ASAD AND CLEAN UP MILITARY CORRUPTION. THE EMBASSY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 300006

FURTHER REPORTS:

--THE ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY WAS ASSUMED TO BE THE WORK
OF LONG-STANDING ANTI-ASAD BAATHIST LEADERS JADID AND
MAKHUS.

--AMONG THE DISTURBING ASPECTS EMERGING FROM THE ON-

GOING INVESTIGATION WAS THE SUCCESS OF THE JADIDISTS IN RECRUITING OFFICERS FROM A BRANCH OF THE ALAWITE SECT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED LOYAL TO THE ASAD REGIME.

--JADID MAY HAVE SIMILAR GROUPS IN RESERVE AWAITING THE PROPER TIME TO MOVE, AND OTHER GROUPS OF JUNIOR

OFFICERS MAY HAVE BEGUN ORGANIZING.

--DISCONTENT AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE ALAWITE COMMUNITY AND THE OFFICER CORPS WILL MAKE CONTACTS BETWEEN ALAWITE AND NON-ALAWITE DISSIDENTS EASIER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE DISCOVERY OF THE POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY HAS CAUGHT BOTH ASAD AND MANY OF HIS OPPONENTS OFF BALANCE. ASAD, CONSCIOUS OF HIS POWER BASE IN THE ARMY AND ALAWITE COMMUNITY, CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON FENCE-MENDING ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS INTERNAL DIVERSION TO OBLIGE HIM TO WITHDRAW FROM EFFORTS TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, BUT IT MAY INHIBIT HIM FROM PLAYING AN INNOVATIVE ROLE OR TAKING PUBLIC INITIATIVES. (SECRET) DAMASCUS 8885, 12/31.

2. QUEBEC PUTS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON TRIAL

THE QUEBEC PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE "TRIAL" OF CANADIAN FEDERALISM. THE STUDY WILL PRODUCE AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF QUEBEC'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 300006

REGIME. AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, AND NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED BY THE GOVERNMENT:

--INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CLAUDE MORIN WILL CONDUCT THE "TRIAL."

--THE MAIN GOAL OF THE "TRIAL" WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE LACK OF COMPLETE POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY IMPEDES THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC FROM ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND FROM TAKING ALL POLITICAL ACTIONS IT FEELS NECESSARY.

--THE STUDY WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, WHETHER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR CULTURAL.

CONSULATE GENERAL QUEBEC COMMENT: SINCE THE FINDINGS ARE ALREADY KNOWN IN ADVANCE, IT WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE MEDIA, AND PERHAPS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW, SCRUTINIZE AND ANALYZE THE "TRIAL"

PROCESS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) QUEBEC 405, 12/30.

3. SINO-US RELATIONS

USLO PEKING REPORTS THAT SINO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT CHANG HSIANG-SHAN, ANSWERING A JAPANESE VISITOR'S QUESTIONS ABOUT SINO-US RELATIONS, SAID

SECRET

THAT:

--ALTHOUGH THE SOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION IS A SINE QUA NON FOR A BASIC IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE US, THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE COMMON PROBLEMS OF GREATER IMPORT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 300006

--PEKING UNDERSTANDS "THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE OF TELLING US NOT TO HURRY ON THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN ...BUT WHETHER TO USE FORCE OR WHEN IS..." A CHINESE DECISION.

--ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE "REACTIONARIES" IN TAIWAN TO SEND NEGOTIATORS TO PEKING, THERE ARE "DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE" IN TAIWAN, AND PEKING WOULD NOT RULE OUT DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL)
PEKING 2680, 12/31.

4. SINGAPORE TAKES SOVIETS TO TASK

MFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION KESAVAPANY BRIEFED EMBASSY SINGAPORE ON SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN'S TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE. ACCORDING TO KESAVAPANY:

--PRIME MINISTER LEE WAS CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ASEAN.

--AFTER FIRYUBIN'S GLOWING DESCRIPTION OF THE SOVIET ECONOMY, LEE POINTED OUT THAT, GIVEN THIS PROGRESS, THE SOVIET ECONOMIC PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS RATHER ANEMIC. (CONFIDENTIAL) SINGAPORE 5828, 12/30.

5. ASEAN

A. A LOW-KEY OPPORTUNITY FOR US...

EMBASSY JAKARTA BELIEVES THAT PROSPECTS FOR A MUTUALLY

BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE US AND ASEAN ON ECONOMIC MATTERS WILL BE ENHANCED IF ASEAN IS ALLOWED TO SET THE PACE. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS:

--A LOW-KEY US RESPONSE OF WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 300006

TOPICS SUGGESTED BY ASEAN SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT;
PERMITTING ASEAN TO SET THE AGENDA WILL INCREASE THE
LIKELIHOOD THAT ITS NEGOTIATORS WILL BE WELL-PRE-
PARED.

THE TOPICS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE LESS IM-
PORTANT TO THE US THAN THE FACT THEY ARE TAKING
PLACE.

--THE ASEAN INITIATIVE PRESENTS TO THE INCOMING
ADMINISTRATION AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE
THAT THE US DOES NOT INTEND TO OVERLOOK SOUTHEAST
ASIA.

B. ...AND THEM

EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE OF
SINGAPORE REPORTEDLY TOLD MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER
HUSSEIN THAT HE (LEE) IS GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER INCREASING
AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THAT HE
EXPECTS THE TREND TO BE ACCELERATED BY THE CARTER AD-
MINISTRATION. LEE SUGGESTED THAT:

--HE AND LEADERS OF OTHER ASEAN STATES SHOULD REMIND
THE US OF ITS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRY TO
FORESTALL THE CURTAILMENT OF US INVESTMENT IN THE
AREA.

--AN ASEAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE US OFFER FOR ECONOMIC
TALKS WOULD BE EVIDENCE OF ASEAN'S DESIRE FOR A CON-
TINUING AMERICAN ROLE, AND WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPOR-
TUNITY TO WORK AGAINST ANY EFFORTS BY THE NEW AD-
MINISTRATION TO LIMIT US INVESTMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL)
JAKARTA 16649, 12/29 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) KUALA LUMPUR
7522, 12/31.

ROBINSON

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 300006

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE300006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: LEGGIO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770001-0702
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770187/aaaacxot.tel
Line Count: 223
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59e9e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3675982
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX
To: NSA TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59e9e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009